

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE



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REPORT
ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR

1949

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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor:

ALDERMAN H. P. JONES, O.B.E., J.P.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN MRS. M. H. LUNT, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR E. A. HEYNES, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. M. H. Lunt, J.P.
Councillor A. A. Bateman.
Councillor W. Cook.
Councillor Miss A. Davies.
Councillor F. G. Gregory.

Councillor J. Griffiths.
Councillor Miss E. M. D. Moody.
Councillor R. G. Osborne, J.P.
Councillor B. Skelding, J.P.
Councillor E. W. L. Tye.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. S. MELVILLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P. H.

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts:

+A. E. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector:

+J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

+G. H. STONE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff:

A. POWELL (Chief Clerk).

MISS A. TONKS.

E. N. JAMES.

+Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1949.

....

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Stourbridge.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1949.

The general health of the Borough during the year continued to be satisfactory.

The decrease in the Birth Rate from 16.3 to 15.17 (representing 39 fewer births) conformed with the usual trend of post-war periods in which there is a peak rate in the immediate years after hostilities, followed by a decline. In 1945, the Birth Rate was 16.19, which increased to 18.4 in the year following, and rose again in 1947 to 19.46. There is a similarity in these fluctuations in the Birth Rate for England and Wales, which in 1945 was 16.1, reaching a peak rate of 20.5 in 1947, followed by a decline in 1948 to 17.9 and in 1949 to 16.7.

The number of deaths rose from 377 to 484, giving a Death Rate of 13.14 as against 10.28. The Death Rate for England & Wales also rose from 10.8 to 11.7.

Among the causes of death, cancer and heart disease were again the most prominent. Cancer deaths rose from 59 to 79, and heart disease accounted for 123 deaths as against 121. Mortality from respiratory disease also increased, and whereas there were no deaths from Influenza in 1948, ten were recorded in 1949, whilst the combined deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia rose from 30 to 57.

There was a decline in the incidence of Measles from 336 cases to 145, and no death occurred. Whooping Cough notifications, however rose from 37 to 148, and the incidence was most prevalent from April to September. There was one death - a boy aged eight months.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were recorded during the year, two boys - ages 6 years and 13 years - being affected. Fortunately both made good recoveries. Prior to this year there has been no recorded case of Poliomyelitis in the Borough since 1936.

Scarlet Fever cases increased from 65 to 84, and generally the infection was of a mild type. There was no fatal case.

It is again gratifying to record that, as in 1948, no confirmed case of Diphtheria occurred in the Borough. To the County Health Visitors and to Mrs. Bridgewater, who voluntarily assisted at the Immunisation Clinics, my grateful thanks are due for their good work.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the help and consideration given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also to thank Dr. McIville, Mr. Kent, and the staff of the Department for their unfailing assistance at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

R.L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

							<u>Acres.</u>
The Area of the Borough is	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,214
viz: Stourbridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,025
Pedmore	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,269
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was							33,140
viz: Stourbridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,904
Lye and Wollescote	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,237
Pedmore	...	...	...	...	...	...	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,830
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,030
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1949: not available.							
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	193,517
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	748

Statistical Memorandum.

Population estimated, mid-year, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,830
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population					...	...	15.17
Birth Rate - Average for five years, 1945-1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.02
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population					...	...	13.14
Death Rate - Average for five years, 1945-1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.98
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.9
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.434
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.027

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are hollow-ware and iron-founding, engineering, the manufacture of Forgings, Spades and Shovels, Chains and Vices, Aluminium and Fireclay products, Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather and Gloves, Optical Lenses.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	273	263	536
Illegitimate	...	16	7	23
		<u>289</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>559</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		15.17
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	16.7

Still Births.

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	8	3	11
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-
		<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	15.47
--	-----	-----	-------

DEATHS.

Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	246
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
									<u>484</u>

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.14
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.27
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis -

Other Maternal causes. 1

The Maternal Mortality Rates ~ per 1,000 total (live and still)

Births ~ for England and Wales were:-

Abortion with Sepsis 0.11

Abortion without Sepsis 0.05

Puerperal Infections 0.11

Other Maternal causes 0.71

Deaths of Infants under one Year of age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	11	8	19
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 33.9

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 Live Births.

Causes of Death.

		M.	F.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...
5.	Diphtheria	...	...
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...
9.	Influenza	...	...
10.	Measles	...	...
11.	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...
12.	Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	...	...
13.	Cancer of Buc: cav: and aesoph (M); uterus (F)	...	...
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...
17.	Diabetes	...	...
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...
19.	Heart Disease	...	...
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...
21.	Bronchitis	...	...
22.	Pneumonia	...	...
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...
26.	Appendicitis	...	...
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...
28.	Nephritis	...	...
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	...	...
30.	Other Maternal causes	...	...

				M.	F.
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	3	2
32. Congenital Malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	...	...	...	7	1
33. Suicide	...	...	...	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	1	2
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	4	2
36. All other causes	...	...	...	28	30
				246	238

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	79
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	-

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on page 3.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc) is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, and that of water, milk, and foodstuffs is done at the County Laboratory, Worcester.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are two Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough. That in Stourbridge is at 40, New Road, and the Centre at Lye is in Orchard Lane.

Prevention of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics were held monthly during the year at the Infant Welfare Centres, as follows:-

Stourbridge	.. ..	Third Friday in the month (10 a.m. - 12 noon)
Lye	.. ..	Third Thursday in the month (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The water supply to the area of the Borough of Stourbridge is controlled by the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1909 and is composed of twelve members nominated by the Borough of Stourbridge, and the Urban District Councils of Amblecote and Brierley Hill. It operates three pumping stations, two of which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and the third in Brierley Hill.

At each of the pumping stations there are two boreholes; these are tubes protected for part of their full depth and generally penetrate into the upper Bunter Sandstone, middle Bunter and Pebble Beds of the Lower Bunter Sandstone. The whole of the supply is pumped into two well defined areas of supply, the high level and the low level. The high level area, the consumption of which averages 400,000 gallons per day is normally supplied by the Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and a Standby is available at Mill Meadow Station. Both these Stations are in Amblecote. A balance tank for this area is available at Wychbury Hill and has a capacity of 350,000 gallons.

It is in the low level area of supply that the major part of the Borough of Stourbridge is situated. The consumption in this area is in the region of 1,400,000 gallons per day averaged throughout the year, and is normally supplied now by the Tack Lane Pumping Station. This Station has been in full operation since January, 1948, and has provided a bountiful supply of water of a much softer quality than has hitherto been available in the area.

The Duplicate pumping plant envisaged in my last Report has now been on order for some time.

Standby plant is available at Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and at Mill Meadow for the supply of the low level area.

A balance tank of 500,000 gallons capacity is situated at Doctor's Hill.

Particulars of samples taken are included in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board. The sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

Public Cleansing.

The scavenging is carried out by direct labour and is dealt with by controlled tipping. Four tips were in use, viz: Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street; Wollaston Hall Estate; Bromley Street, Lye; and Hay Green, Lye.

SECTION D.

Housing work is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Details of the inspections carried out during the year will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Small Pox.

No case was reported during the year.

Typhoid Fever.

There was no incidence during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

There were two cases, the first in August and the second in November. Fortunately, both were of a mild type.

Scarlet Fever.

Eighty four cases, compared with 65 in the previous year, were reported. Generally the infection was of a mild type and no deaths occurred.

Diphtheria.

The numbers of children immunised were maintained. Six hundred and three children - 554 being of pre-school age - completed their primary treatment during the year. Additionally some 426 school children were given boosting injections.

Since 1935 the record of immunisation in the Borough is as follows:-

Year.	Alum Precipitated		Toxoid anti-toxin		Total.
	Toxoid	2 inj.	Mixture.	.	
1935	...	-	3	...	3
1936	...	-	-	...	-
1937	...	247	46	...	293
1938	...	201	23	...	224
1939	...	61	35	...	96
1940	...	-	112	...	112
1941	...	65	1397	...	1462
1942	...	17	1806	...	1823
1943	...	563	71	...	634
1944	...	507	-	...	507
1945	...	671	-	...	671
1946	...	536	-	...	536
1947	...	640	-	...	640
1948	...	580	-	...	580
1949	...	603	-	...	603
		4691	3493		8184

Of an estimated child population of 7,880, some 6,039 children under 15 years of age had been immunised at the end of 1949, of which number 1,651 related to children of pre-school age.

Approximately 90% of school children and 54% of children of pre-school age have now been immunised.

Note.- During the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, 3,009 children received one injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. No account of these has been taken in calculating the number of children completely immunised.

Table showing the Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria.

Year.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Case Mortality Rate.	Immunised Cases.	Children Deaths.
1935	110	18	16.3	3	-
1936	33	5	15.1	3	-
1937	81	3	3.7	6	-
1938	49	2	4.08	6	-
1939	40	7	17.5	11	-
1940	71	2	2.81	9	-
1941	87	5	5.74	8	-
1942	21	-	-	2	-
1943	18	1	5.5	5	-
1944	25	2	8.0	9	-
1945	47	3	6.38	11	-
1946	21	1	4.76	7	-
1947	30	2	6.66	11	1
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1949	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>633</u>	<u>51</u>		<u>91</u>	<u>1</u>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Disease	Under 1 Year	AGES										Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	20 -	35 -	45 -			
Scarlet Fever . . .	1	2	6	10	7	44	10	2	-	-	-	84	58	-
Diphtheria . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	4	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
Whooping Cough	14	21	23	24	20	46	-	-	-	-	-	148	2	1
Measles	9	19	23	13	23	57	1	-	-	-	-	145	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	31	42	52	47	50	151	13	2	11	2	11	417	69	22

NOTE: Of the sixty-nine hospital cases, fifty-nine were admitted to Halesowen. Eight other cases were also admitted for observation as Diphtheria suspects. Bacteriologically these fortunately proved to be negative.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	1	-	-	-
10	3	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	1	-	-	1	-
20	1	3	2	-	2	-
25	2	3	-	-	4	-
35	2	1	-	1	-	-
45	2	1	-	2	2	-
55	3	1	-	2	1	-
65 and upwards	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	...	13	10	-	3	6	10	1

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.434 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.409 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.027 as compared with Nil in 1948.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1949.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1949 ..	97	72	16	17
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations	13	10	-	3
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification	1	3	-	-
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ..	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	111	85	16	20
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	8	16	-	1
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year	103	69	16	19

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for 1949.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Stourbridge.

• • •

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a Report on the work
of your Public Health Department for 1949.

The only addition to the staff has been the appointment of
a Rodent Operative. He received his initial training with the City of
Birmingham Public Health Department, which was arranged by Mr. H.R.
Hitchins, Deputy Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture
and Fisheries.

I wish to tender my thanks and appreciation to the members
of my staff and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee
for their continued support, and to Dr. Corlett for his helpful advice at
all times.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A.E.K. KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 292 complaints was received during the year 1949. These related principally to housing defects.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following date is given in accordance with Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

The numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:

Inspections of houses	...	...	...	345
Inspections under Housing Regulations	...	...	12	
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	...	...	16	
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	...	...	127	
Re-inspections and re-visits	...	...	1448	
Slaughter of pigs on private premises	...	...	768	
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	72	
Factories	...	...	48	
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	62	
Bakehouses	...	...	15	
Food Stores and Food Preparation Premises	..		224	
Shops	...	...	21	
Shops (re unfit food)	...	...	73	
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats and Mice)			29	
Rats and Mice Infestations	...	...	152	
Water Supplies	...	...	12	
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	47	
Refuse Tips	...	...	140	
Common Lodging House	...	...	14	
Pig Sties	...	...	102	

Number of Notices served during the year:

Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	225
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	63

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 225. These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs necessary to remedy the defects.

		No. of Notices	No. of houses or premises affected
General defects of houses	...	100	...
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	10	...
Defective drainage	...	17	...
Defective out-buildings	...	2	...
Defective dustbins	...	41	...
Shops Acts - Contraventions	...	2	...
Tents, Vans, etc., Nuisances	...	2	...
Factories - Defective/Inadequate Sanitary accommodation	...	1	...
Factories - Smoke Nuisances	...	4	...
Licensed Premises - Sanitary accommodation	...	1	...
Food and Drugs Act - Contravention	...	42	...
Cinemas - Sanitary Accommodation	...	1	...
Miscellaneous	...	1	...
Section 154 - Public Health Act, 1936 - Construction	...	1	...
		<u>225</u>	<u>277</u>

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1949.

	No. of Notices.	No. of premises affected.
Public Health Act, 1936:		
Provision of dustbins (Section 75) ...	4	... 4
Abatement of Nuisances (Section 93) ..	18	... 15
Removal of Noxious Matter (Section 79)	1	... 1
Requisition for Information (Section 277)	3	... 2
Control of Moveable Dwellings ... (Section 238)	1	... 1
(Section 44)	2	... 2
Housing Act, 1936:		
Notices to appear before Council (Section 11)	15	... 6
Demolition Orders (Section 11) ...	5	... 4
Requisitions for Information (Section 168)	5	... 5
Closing Order (Section 12) ...	4	... 1
Regulation 68A.A. Defence General Regulations, 1939		
Licences	2	... 1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 Section 14(3) ...	<u>3</u> <u>63</u>	<u>...</u> <u>2</u> <u>44</u>
Result of the Service of Notices: Preliminary Notices complied with	...	210
		(including 56 Notices brought forward from 1948).
Statutory Notices complied with	...	34
		(including 6 Notices brought forward from 1948).
<u>HOUSING.</u>		
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:		
(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	357	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	1448	
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	12	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	16	
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6	

(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	... ... ... ... ...	339
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... ... ... ... ...	226
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:		
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	... -	
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
(a) By Owners -	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-	
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:		
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ... ... ... ... 15	
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	... ... ... ... ... 23	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-	
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ... ... 4	
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ... 12	
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ... ... ... ... 1	
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit -	

Sixteen houses were repaired after formal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

One hundred and eighty-nine houses were repaired after informal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Four Demolition Orders were made during the year in respect of the following houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair bordering on the dangerous:-

- 133, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge.
- 2, Springfield Avenue, Lye, Stourbridge.
- 8, Waste Bank, Lye, Stourbridge.
- 8, Queen's Road, Stourbridge.

UNDERTAKINGS.

An Undertaking to execute repairs at 139, Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, was accepted by the Borough Council.

CLOSING ORDERS.

Under the provisions of Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, the part of the building at 183, High Street, Stourbridge, used for housing accommodation was closed for human habitation.

An application to use as store rooms only was approved by the Borough Council.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

Owing to the persistently unsatisfactory conditions, the application for renewal of registration of the only remaining Common Lodging House in the Borough was refused by the Borough Council in June.

RENT RESTRICTION ACTS.

An application for a Certificate of Disrepair, in respect of 47, Union Street, Stourbridge, was not granted, as the property was not rendered unfit by reason of the minor repairs necessary.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Complaints of vermin infestation at 29 houses were received, and 43 visits of inspection were made. Nineteen of the houses were effectively treated - mostly for bugs and fleas.

The remaining cases, involving insect pests, were remedied by the issue of insecticides with directions for their effective use.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION).

During the year, 137 complaints were received, as against 23 during 1948. This appreciable rise was in my opinion due to the fact that it was becoming increasingly known that the Council were again employing a rodent operative and not, as one might assume, to a rise in the number of rodents in the Borough.

Sixty business premises and 92 private premises were dealt with very effectively, and out of 129 sewer manholes test-baited, 35 had to have poison treatment. The success of these treatments was due in no small measure to the keenness of the rodent operative.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

No formal action was necessary during the year to deal with the various Caravans which again occupied land in different parts of the Borough.

An application for a licence to use land at Chawnhill as a camping site for one van was refused by the Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Premises used for:

(a) Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream.

During 1949, 20 new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream in sealed cartons and 3 for the sale of loose ice cream.

At the end of the year there were 52 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and 6 for its manufacture and sale.

Samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The fat content varied between 18.4% and 0.4%, the majority being over 7%. Bacteriologically a high proportion of the samples were in provisional Grades 1 and 2.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods.

There were eleven premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food, principally sausages, and all were maintained in a satisfactory condition. Three notices asking for improvements were sent and the premises affected brought up to date.

(c) Fish Frying.

There was no change in the number of premises registered (19).

Three premises were found to be in a dirty condition and structurally unsuitable. The occupiers were given notice to appear before the Public Health Committee to show cause why their registrations should not be cancelled. Each agreed to carry out structural alterations and improvements to my satisfaction. These works were eventually carried out and the premises made satisfactory.

Eight other premises were improved after notice by the provision of white-tiled walls, separate preparation rooms, hot water for washing, and other structural alterations.

ADULTERATION.

Two hundred and twenty one informal samples and 13 formal samples were submitted for analysis as follows:-

Milk (Raw)	...	...	...	...	68
Milk (Tuberculin Tested)	...	...	...	...	11
Milk (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	22
Milk (Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	19
Milk (Sterilised)	...	...	...	...	26
Milk (Heat-treated)	...	...	...	...	7
Milk (Jersey Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	5
Milk (Jersey Tuberculin Tested)	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	47
Fish Cake	...	...	...	...	1
Salad Dressing	...	...	...	...	3
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	3
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Sausages	...	...	...	...	10
Suet Puddings	...	...	...	...	1
Dehydrated Coffee	...	...	...	...	1
Sago	...	...	...	...	1½
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Potato Crisps	...	...	...	...	2
Potato Chips	...	...	...	...	3

The results of the analyses in respect of the above samples proved all to be genuine, with the exception of the following:-

- (1) Informal sample of sterilised milk proved to be 10% deficient of fat. Subsequent formal samples were all genuine.
- (2) Informal sample of raw milk was 10% deficient of fat. Subsequent formal samples were all genuine.
- (3) Formal sample of Jersey T.T. Pasteurised Milk was 51% deficient of fat. Legal proceedings were taken and the firm fined £5 and two guineas costs.
- (4) Informal sample of suet pudding was unfit for human consumption, due to acidity. All stock destroyed by firm on being notified.
- (5) Informal ice cream was 0.4% fat, but there being no legal standard warning was given. Subsequent samples taken were all above 5% fat.

MILK SUPPLIES.

There are twelve farms in the Borough producing milk, with a total of approx. 200 cows.

Twenty seven dairies and a total of 33 dairymen supply milk within the Borough. In addition 94 shops retail bottled milk.

Frequent routine visits were made to all farms and dairy premises, and in spite of present-day labour difficulties and shortages, certain improvements were effected and a satisfactory standard was maintained.

During the year all supplies of raw milk sold in the Borough were sampled and submitted for biological examination. One sample, produced in Staffordshire, was found to be infected with tubercle bacilli. The County Medical Officer for Staffordshire was notified and he ultimately informed me that one cow had been isolated from the herd and subsequently slaughtered. In the meantime the retailer was persuaded to divert the milk to a suitable pasteurising depot.

All the other samples were free from infection.

BACTERIAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Two hundred and four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as under:

Type of Milk.	No. of Samples.	Tests applied.	Results of Tests.		
			Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	19	Methylene Blue Phosphatase ..	19 19	... ...	- -
Pasteurised ...	25	Methylene Blue Phosphatase ..	25 25	... ...	- -
Sterilized ...	23	Methylene Blue Phosphatase .. Turbidity Test	16 16 6	... ... ...	- - 1
Heat Treated ...	10	Methylene Blue Phosphatase ..	9 10	... ...	1 -
Tuberculin Tested ...	14	Methylene Blue Tubercle bacilla B. Coli ..	13 - 12	... ... 2	1 - -
Raw Milk ...	107	Methylene Blue B. Coli ..	83 82	... ...	24 25
Jersey Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ..	5	Methylene Blue Phosphatase ..	5 5	... ...	- -
Jersey Tuberculin Tested. ..	1	Methylene Blue B. Coli	1 1	... ...	- -

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-1946.

The following Licences were granted during the year:-

Dealers' Bottling Licence:				
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
Pasteurisers' Licence				
	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Retailing Licences:				
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ..				3
Supplementary Licences:				
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
Pasteurised	...	...	...	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

During the year 768 home-fed pigs slaughtered on private premises were inspected. Thirteen mesenteries, 8 heads, 2 kidneys, and 3 frys were found to be affected with tuberculosis and were voluntarily destroyed. In addition two whole carcases and part of a carcase (weighing 830 lbs) were found to be extensively affected with tuberculosis and were also condemned.

There is no Government Centralised Slaughterhouse in the Borough.

Seventy three visits were made to shops, etc., for the inspection of foodstuffs and the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

			C.	Q.	Lb.
Fish	..	..	9	2	7
Bacon and Ham	..				1½
Flour and Cereals	..			1	11
Cheese	..	..		1	12½
Sugar	..	..			7
Sausages	..	..		1	5
Barley	..	..	1	-	-
Cooking Fat	..				1½
Margarine	..	..			2
Butter	..	..			4½
Biscuits	..	..			2
Cocoa	..	..	2		25
Almond Flavouring	..				7
Walnut Essence	..				7
Ginger	..	..			5½
Rabbit	..	..		1	19
Figs	..	..		1	16

Number

Eggs	..	..	347
Puddings	..	..	343
Fowls	..	..	5
Pickles	..	..	21 jars
Chutney	..	..	5 "
Salad Cream	..		12 "
Piccalilli	..		13 "
Sauce	..	..	5 bottles
Coffee	..	..	4 "
Vinegar	..	..	20 "
Essence	..	..	7 "
Custard Powder	..		1 pkt.
Junket	..	..	1 "

Canned Foods:

No. of Tins:

Vegetables	..	335
Jam	..	94
Milk	..	220
Soup	..	36
Fruit	..	80
Fruit Juice	..	19
Fish	..	105
Meat	..	54
Fish Paste	..	7
Miscellaneous	..	11

The Barley (1 cwt) was ultimately used for animal feeding only.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, seventeen licences were renewed and two applications for licences granted during the year.

WATER SAMPLING.

Public Supplies.

The reports on the public supplies were again excellent. Bacteriological counts were very low, whilst chemical examinations have been constant.

The supplies were equally satisfactory as to quantity. They are not liable to plumbo solvency but samples are examined periodically for lead contamination.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to the houses was 10938 and by means of standpipes, external to the houses, 80, (approximately).

The following are results of the chemical examination of representative samples of the Town's Water Supply, taken during the year:-

Physical Characters.	LOW LEVEL			HIGH LEVEL
	26th Oct. 1949	No. 1.	Clear, odourless	13th July, 1949
			Deposit none	No. 2.
			pH 7.7	Clear, odourless
				Deposit none
				pH 7.6
Chemical Examination (results in parts per 100,000)				
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)		None		None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	30		65	
Solids in Solution, after ignition	24		51	
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	3.5		11.7	
Hardness Permanent	6		25	
Hardness Temporary	16		21	
Hardness Total	22		46	
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0008		0.0006	
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0006		0.0016	
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	1.0		0.25	
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None		None	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.013		0.026	
Toxic Metals	None detected.		None detected.	
Free chlorine on receipt	None		None	

Some 28 samples were submitted by this Department for bacteriological analysis, and the following are representative of the results received:-

		Number of Colonies developing upon Agar in two days; in three days at 27°C. at 22°C.		Col-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count.	(per 100 ml.)
		(per one ml.)			
January 6th.	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil
February 3rd.	...	Nil	1	...	Nil
March 15th.	...	1	2	...	Nil
April 27th.	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil
May 18th.	...	Nil	1	...	Nil
June 21st.	...	1	1	...	Nil
July 26th.	...	1	3	...	Nil
August 10th.	...	2	3	...	Nil
September 14th.	...	2	3	...	Nil
October 26th.	...	2	Nil	...	Nil
November 17th.	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil
December 14th.	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

One sample of spring water supplying Pedmore Hall showed faecal type coli were present and the occupier was warned to boil all water intended for drinking purposes.

Subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS.

During the year 16 samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Baths were submitted for chemical analysis and 34 for bacteriological examination.

The supply is taken from the Baths own well and is chlorinated. The bacteriological reports showed that the chlorination was effective and that the bacteriological counts were kept within safe limits.

One chemical sample taken early in the year was reported as unsatisfactory, due to high ammonia content. After carrying out the suggestion that the plant be run through the night and extra alum added to aid oxidation of the ammoniacal nitrites, a further sample was taken which showed small improvement only. The whole of the indoor Bath water was then run to waste and the Bath refilled. All subsequent samples taken were satisfactory.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Samples of effluent taken from storm-water drains discharging into the River Stour showed pollution from acid and iron in suspension. Most of this pollution was caused by galvanising and enamelling works.

Efforts are now being made to have neutralising chambers put in and the discharge pipes connected to the foul sewer in each of the Works affected.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No great problems arise in the Borough, with the exception of a few isolated brickworks and steel-forging works, but in these particular trades the amount of smoke emitted is far too great. Efforts are continually being made to achieve improvements both as regards plant and technique.

By far the worst type of atmospheric pollution in the Borough is caused by domestic fires, and this will not be overcome until the open coal-burning firegrate has been replaced by the more efficient and economical grates using smokeless fuels.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the refuse collection and disposal in the Borough was under the control of the Surveyor, but during the year the disposal of refuse was put under my supervision by the Council. The four tips in the Borough are now controlled and each one is in very good condition.

The Council still use one open cart for the purpose of refuse collection, and from a public health point of view this leaves much to be desired, as bacteria-laden dust and paper are blown about the roads in windy weather. This method of collection is also very uneconomical.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Premises.	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	68	35	-	-
(2) Factories not included in:				
(1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938.	192	75	5	-
(b) Other	-	-	-	-
(3) Other Premises under the Act (Excluding outworkers premises) ..	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	260	110	5	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
			Referred.			
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)						
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	7	7	-	10	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	9	-	11	-	-

OUTWORKERS.

Twenty four lists were received, containing the names of 48 outworkers, 18 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Eighty three licences were issued during the year - 71 to store petroleum spirit only, 4 to store petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium, 3 to store petroleum and cellulose, 1 to store cellulose only, 3 to store carbide of calcium only, and 1 to store carbide of calcium and cellulose.

These licences authorised the storage of 83,538 gallons of petroleum spirit, 7,870 lbs., carbide of calcium, and 770 gallons of cellulose solution.

The sum of £59. 19. Od., was received as licence fees.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE.

This Committee, on which the Borough Council is represented, continues to function. Meetings are held quarterly and their recommendations sent to the Clerk of the County Council.

During the year, seven T.B. patients were allocated Council houses.

Your Sanitary Inspector still continues to act as Honorary Secretary of the Committee.

